

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claim 25, without prejudice.

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A module filter ~~(1)~~ comprising:

a container ~~(2)~~, ~~comprised of~~ comprising at least one container housing ~~(3)~~ and, a container bottom ~~(4)~~ and ~~comprising~~, at least one admission ~~(6)~~ for a non-filtrate ~~(6)~~, and a discharge for a ~~the~~ filtrate ~~(7)~~;

at least one filter module ~~(8)~~ arranged in said container housing ~~(3)~~ and ~~comprised of~~ comprising several stacked, disc-shaped filter cells ~~(9)~~, each filter cell substantially ~~comprised of~~ comprising first and second filter material layers, ~~(40)~~ and ~~having an inner space (24), wherein said filter cells (9) have~~ each filter material layer having an inner surface and an outer surface, the filter material layers having peripheral edges that are connected sealingly, the filter cell having a hollow inner space between the filter material layers and further comprising a central opening (10), respectively, wherein said central openings (10) of the several filter cells form at least one central channel (28) connected in fluid communication with said hollow inner space (24) of each of said filter cells (9);

a support element in each filter cell, the support element spacing apart the inner surfaces of each filter material layer, the support element comprising a ring and having an outer diameter, wherein the peripheral edges of the filter material layers are spaced from the outer diameter of the support element to provide said hollow inner space, the ring having openings providing fluid communication between said central channel and said hollow inner space of said filter cell;

said central channel ~~(28) connected to~~ communicating with said admission ~~(6)~~ for the non-filtrate;

said container housing ~~(3)~~ having a space ~~(3')~~ surrounding said filter cells ~~cells (9)~~, wherein said space ~~(3')~~ ~~is connected~~ communicates with said discharge ~~(7)~~ for the filtrate;

circular disc-shaped drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ arranged between said filter cells ~~(9)~~, wherein said drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ extend at least approximately over the entire outer surface area of the filter material layers of said filter cells (9);

said drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ having a plurality of drainage channels ~~(35)~~, respectively, wherein said drainage channels ~~(35)~~ extend toward an outer rim of said drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~;

said drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ having projections ~~(31, 32)~~ projecting axially away from said drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ and extending in a radial direction of said drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~, respectively;

wherein between said projections ~~(31, 32)~~ intermediate spaces are defined; and

wherein said intermediate spaces form said drainage channels ~~(35)~~ and are configured to remove the filtrate.

22. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 21, wherein said filter cells ~~(9)~~ and said drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ have a descending slope extending from said central channel ~~(28)~~ radially outwardly.

23. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 21, wherein said drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ and said filter cells ~~(9)~~ are formed as circular disks and have at least substantially the same diameter.

24. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 23, wherein said drainage channels ~~(35)~~ extend in the form of radial beams to a peripheral rim of said drainage support body ~~(17)~~.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim ~~[[25]]~~ 21, wherein said support ~~ring (41)~~ element has an inner diameter (D) matching approximately the diameter of said central opening ~~(10)~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim ~~[[25]]~~ 21, wherein said support ~~ring (41)~~ is comprised of element comprises a flat annular base body ~~(42)~~, wherein said base body ~~(42)~~ has spaced apart axial projections ~~(43)~~ extending radially strip-shaped on both sides of said base body ~~(42)~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 21, wherein each one of said filter cells ~~(9)~~ is comprised of an upper layer (9.1) and a lower layer (9.2) of said filter material (40) and further comprises a frame ~~(29)~~, wherein radially outer rims ~~(51)~~ of said upper and lower first and second filter material layers (9.1, 9.2) are connected by said frame ~~(29)~~ to one another.

29. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 28, wherein said filter material ~~(40) is a~~ layers are nonwoven filter cloth.

30. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 28, wherein each one of said frames ~~(29)~~ comprises an underside with support knobs ~~(30)~~ and said frames ~~(29)~~ are supported on one another by said support knobs ~~(30)~~.

31. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 21, further comprising a closure ring ~~(11)~~ arranged axially at the ends of said filter module ~~(8)~~, respectively, and coaxially to said central opening ~~(10)~~, wherein said filter module ~~(8) is comprised of~~ comprises several of said filter cells ~~(9)~~ and several of said drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ alternately stacked on one another.

32. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 31, further comprising a securing element ~~(23)~~ configured to secure said alternately stacked filter cells ~~(9)~~ and drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ and to receive tensile forces, wherein said securing element ~~(23)~~ is arranged at a side of said alternately stacked filter cells ~~(9)~~ and drainage support bodies ~~(17)~~ facing said central channel ~~(28)~~.

33. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 32, wherein said securing element ~~(23) is a sleeve (23) comprised of~~ comprises a metal sleeve and ~~having~~ has a mantle surface provided with a plurality of openings ~~(39)~~, wherein said sleeve ~~(23)~~ has end faces and is connected with said end faces positive-lockingly with said closure rings ~~(11)~~.

34. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 33, wherein said closure ring ~~(11)~~ has a recess in the form of an annular ring ~~(26)~~ configured to receive a sealing ring ~~(19)~~.

35. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 21, further comprising:  
a central tie rod ~~(33)~~ arranged in said central channel ~~(28)~~;  
a fastening arrangement ~~(25)~~, wherein said central tie rod ~~(33)~~ is supported by said fastening arrangement ~~(15)~~ on said container bottom ~~(4)~~; and  
a drainage cover plate ~~(34)~~ arranged at an upper end of said central tie rod ~~(33)~~.

36. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 35, wherein said container ~~(2)~~ has a container cover ~~(36)~~ and wherein said drainage cover plate ~~(34)~~ is supported by a support cap ~~(12)~~ with support ribs ~~(13)~~ on said container cover ~~(36)~~.

37. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 35, wherein said drainage cover plate ~~(34)~~ is a press plate ~~(14)~~ provided with an axial tie rod.

38. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 35, wherein several of said filter modules ~~(8)~~ are aligned with said central openings ~~(10)~~ axially above one another and are secured by said drainage cover plate ~~(34)~~ in said container ~~(2)~~.

39. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 38, wherein said container ~~(2)~~ has a container cover ~~(36)~~ and wherein said drainage cover plate ~~(34)~~ is supported by a support cap ~~(12)~~ with support ribs ~~(13)~~ on said container cover ~~(36)~~.

40. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 38, wherein said drainage cover plate ~~(34)~~ is a press plate ~~(14)~~ provided with an axial tie rod.

41. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 38, further comprising a drainage bottom plate ~~(46)~~ arranged between said container bottom ~~(4)~~ and a lowermost one of said filter modules ~~(8)~~, wherein said drainage bottom plate ~~(46)~~ has a recess ~~(47)~~ in an area neighboring said discharge ~~(7)~~.

42. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 38, further comprising a pressing device ~~(49)~~ configured to secure said filter modules ~~(8)~~ between said drainage cover plate ~~(34)~~ and said drainage bottom plate ~~(46)~~.

43. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 42, wherein said container ~~(2)~~ has a container cover ~~(36)~~ and wherein said pressing device ~~(49)~~ is supported external to said container ~~(2)~~ on said container cover ~~(36)~~.

44. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 42, wherein said pressing device ~~(49)~~ is supported inside said container ~~(2)~~ on said container bottom ~~(4)~~ by said central rod ~~(33)~~ and said fastening arrangement ~~(15)~~.

*AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS*

The attached two sheets include changes to Fig. 1 and Fig. 9, respectively. The sheet including Fig. 1 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1, wherein reference numeral “47” has been replaced with --77--. The sheet including Fig. 9 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 9, wherein the sheet shows two variants of pressing devices. In Fig. 9, the external pressing device 49’ is illustrated, along with clamp 49a and bushing 49b.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)